YS COMICS

3 仮面の下

闇のイージス

原作/七月鏡一
KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA
作画/藤原芳秀

AEGIS IN THE DARK

YS COMICS

闇のイージス 3 仮面の下

原作 七月鏡一
作画 藤原芳秀

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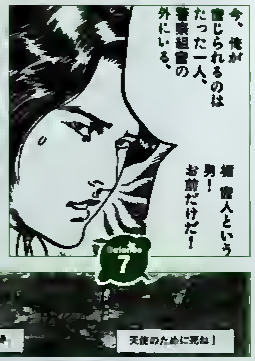

それが俺の右腕の選択だ。

AEGIS IN THE DARK

Defense 7　ナイトフォール
なんと"イージス"(補服人)に警察庁から依頼が、警察内部に「天使」という超極秘警察が存在し、探らから一人の少年を匿ってほしい、とのことだった。明かされてくる警人の過去、そして「天使」の正体は!?

Defense 8　仮面の下
名門の全寮制女子高で警売人が届され、届が警まれた、警件を未然に防ぐため送り込まれた届人、しかし事態は意外な方向に警警！　いったい警がなんのために!?

Defense 9　ゼロ外伝
警みを知らず 恐怖を知らぬ男、補服人のライバル、最し警"ゼロ"ついに主役で登警！ 最唱の警(うた)とともに——ヤツは来た!!

今、一番おもしろい――

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

闇のイージス　1～3巻――七月鏡一／藤原芳秀
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オーバーレブ！　1～18巻――山口かつみ
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おしゃれ手帖　1～2巻――長尾謙一郎
葉弥－HAYA!!－　1巻――村川和宏
バッテリー　1巻――かわぐちかいじ
がんばれよ！西城君。　1巻――太陽星太郎

豪華特製本

赤×黒　上・下巻――上條淳士
青春くん　1～7巻――とがしやすたか

http://www.youngsunday.com
にアクセスすると、ヤングサンデー情報が詳しくわかり、
YSCをオンラインショップで購入することもできます。

原作／七月鏡一（左）
1968年 北海道出身。90年に少年サンデー原作大賞に入賞しデビュー。代表作「シーザス」（作画＝藤原芳秀）「AHMS」（作＝吉川晃二）原案原力など。映原の企画立原 脚本なども手がける。

作画／藤原芳秀（右）
1966年 鳥取県出身。84年に第14回小学館新人コミック大賞に入選しデビュー。代表作「拳児」（原作＝松田星舞）「シーザス」（原作＝七月鏡一）「コンデ・コマ」（原作＝原哲吉原）など。

原作/七月鏡一
KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA
作画/藤原芳秀
YS COMICS
3
闇のイージス
AEGIS IN THE DARK

AEGIS IN THE DARK

KYOUICHI NANATSUKI & YOSHIHIDE FUJIWARA

Defense 19	ナイトフォール Ⅰ	*Night Fall 1*	5
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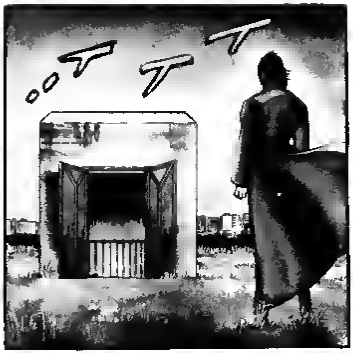
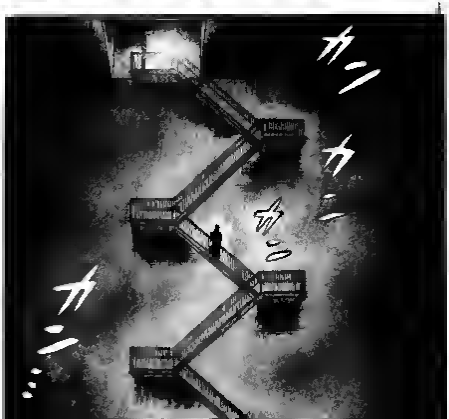
Defense.19

ナイトフォール!

—Night Fall!—





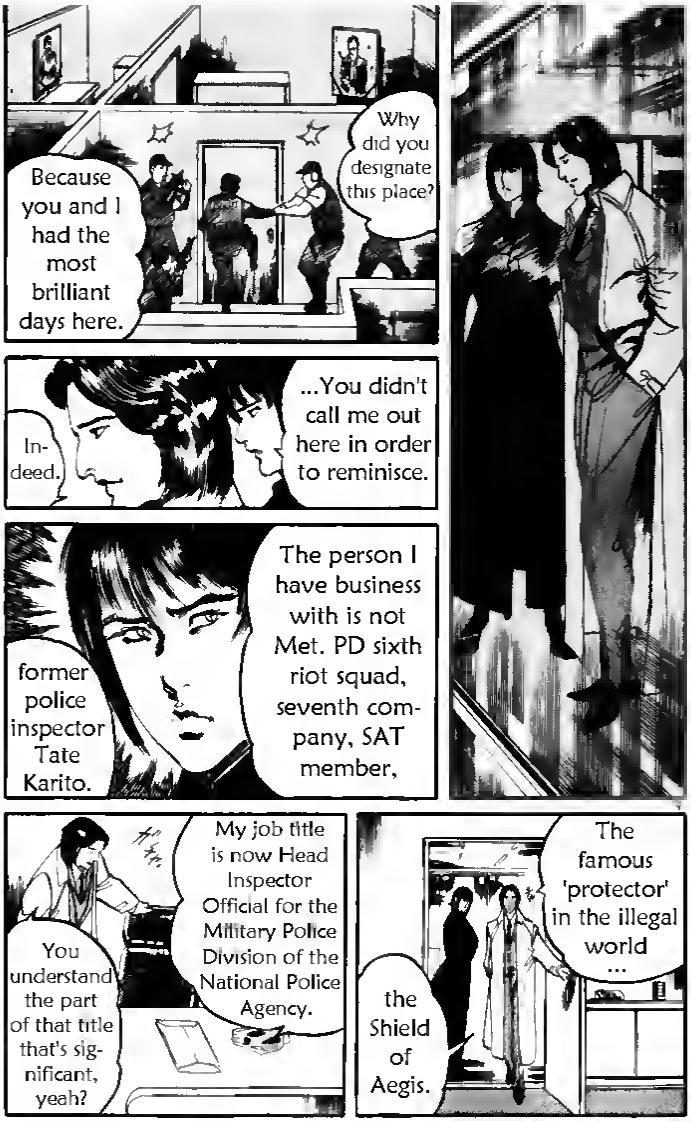
Defense.19
ナイトフォールⅠ
—Night Fall 1—

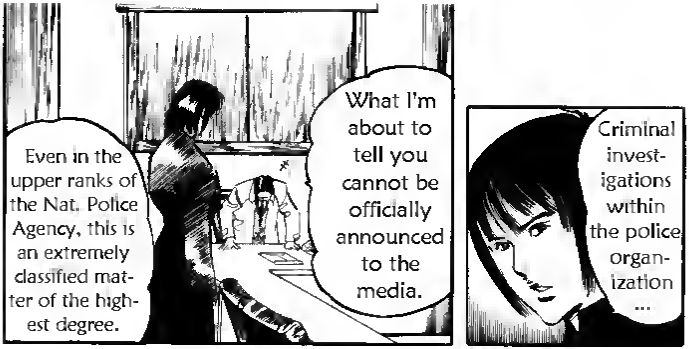
スタ…

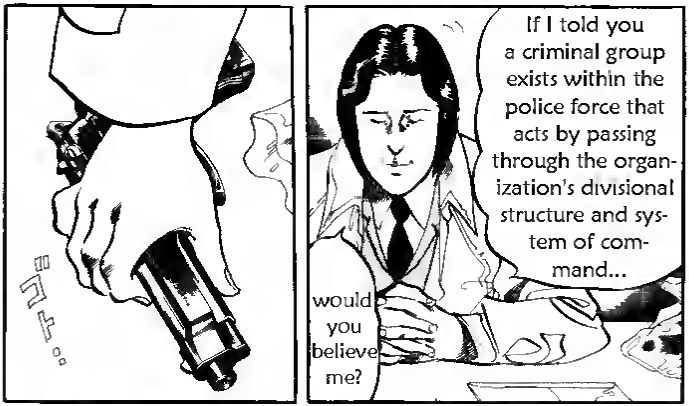
ドオーン
ガシャ
ガシャ

ハッ
ハッ
ハッ

Kai ...
You're not about to go weak on me, are you; it looked like you raised your arm. Tate...

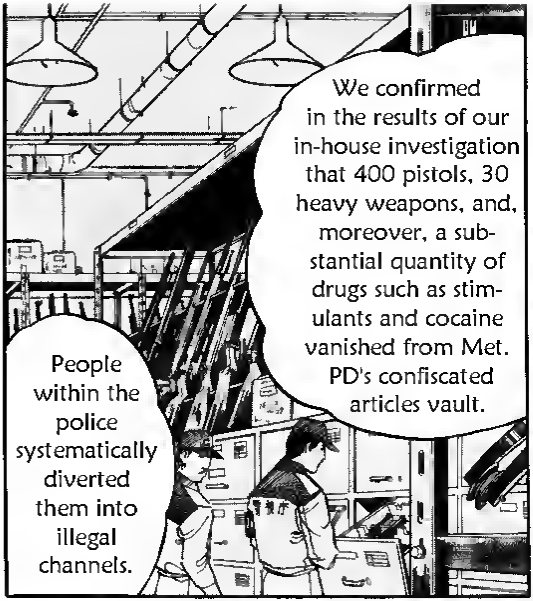

Why did you designate this place?
Because you and I had the most brilliant days here.
...You didn't call me out here in order to reminisce.
In-deed.
The person I have business with is not Met. PD sixth riot squad, seventh company, SAT member,
former police inspector Tate Karito.
My job title is now Head Inspector Official for the Military Police Division of the National Police Agency.
You understand the part of that title that's significant, yeah?
The famous 'protector' in the illegal world ...
the Shield of Aegis.

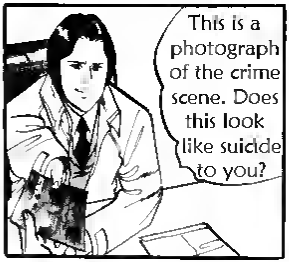

Even in the upper ranks of the Nat. Police Agency, this is an extremely classified matter of the highest degree.
What I'm about to tell you cannot be officially announced to the media.
Criminal investigations within the police organization ...

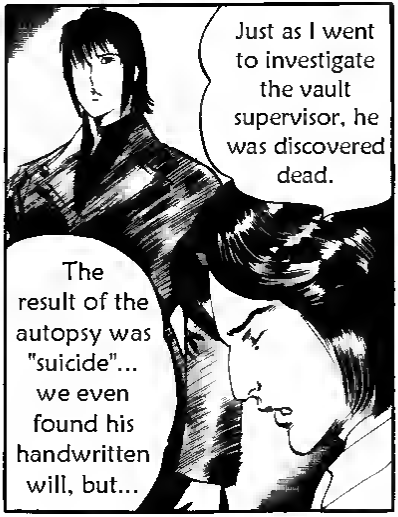

ｶﾁｬ。。
If I told you a criminal group exists within the police force that acts by passing through the organization's divisional structure and system of command...
would you believe me?

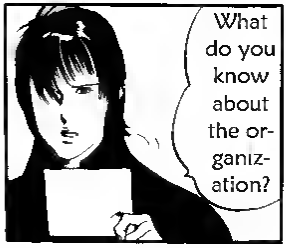
10

It's exactly the same as a pistol that was seized five years ago by the Nat. Police Agency's Community Safety Division.
Italian Beretta manufactured 9 millimeter... the product serial number's been scraped off, but only this one gun had anything left over from the scraping.
It's a pistol that the south Shinjuku station collected and seized from yakuza about half a year ago.


People within the police systematically diverted them into illegal channels.
We confirmed in the results of our in-house investigation that 400 pistols, 30 heavy weapons, and, moreover, a substantial quantity of drugs such as stimulants and cocaine vanished from Met. PD's confiscated articles vault.


This is a photograph of the crime scene. Does this look like suicide to you?

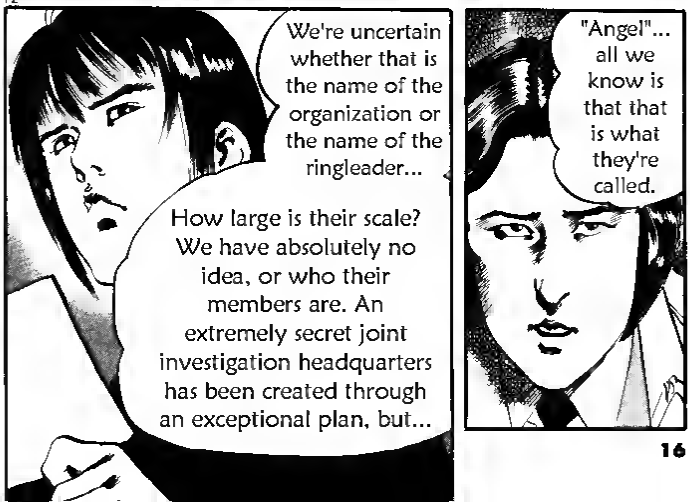

Just as I went to investigate the vault supervisor, he was discovered dead.
The result of the autopsy was "suicide"... we even found his handwritten will, but...


What do you know about the organization?

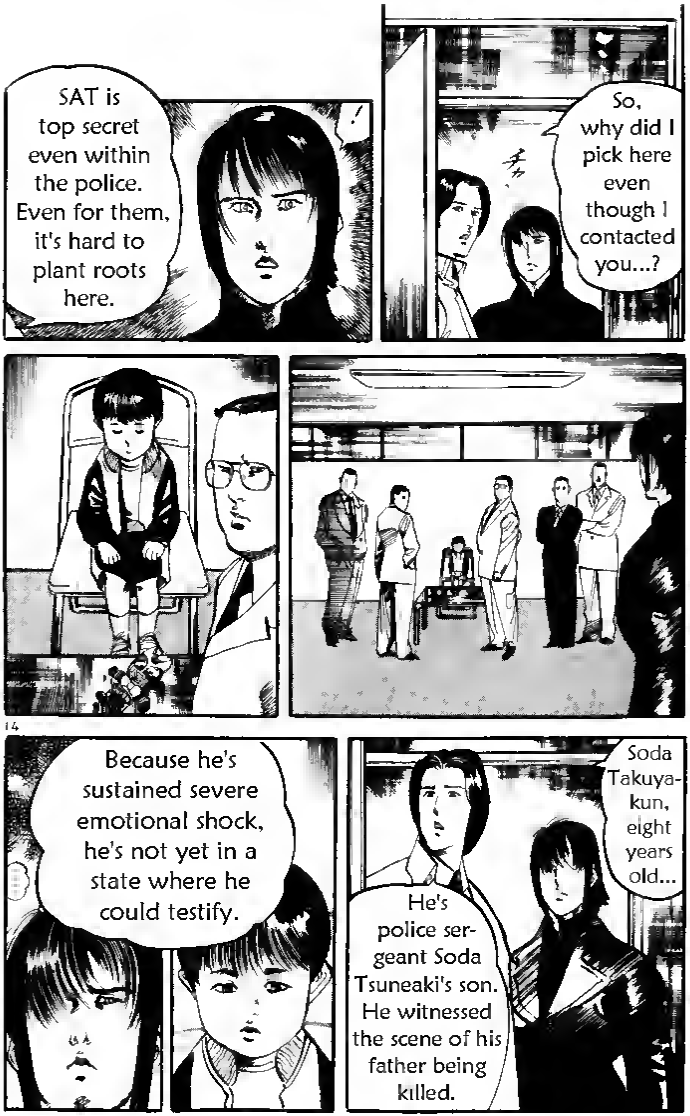
Live for Angel!
Dead for Angel!

Live for Angel!
Dead for Angel!
Live for 'angel',
die for 'angel'!

12

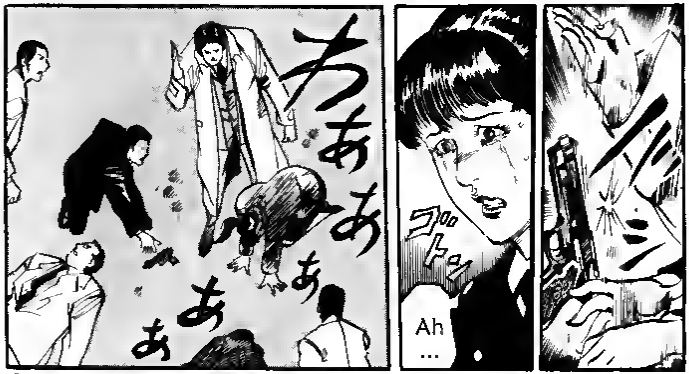

We're uncertain whether that is the name of the organization or the name of the ringleader...
How large is their scale? We have absolutely no idea, or who their members are. An extremely secret joint investigation headquarters has been created through an exceptional plan, but...
"Angel"... all we know is that that is what they're called.

Death from overwork?
Although it'll be two months since we started, four investigators have already died in the line of duty.
Two days ago, the fourth investigator died a suspicious death.
The autopsy detected in his bloodstream drugs that disintegrate in a short time
Until last night, cause of death was assumed to be death from overwork.
An obvious murder! Either information leaked out from within the investigation headquarters
or there are organization members within the investigation headquarters!
The man who died in the line of duty was police sergeant Soda Tsuneaki ...
and what's important is that there was an eyewitness.

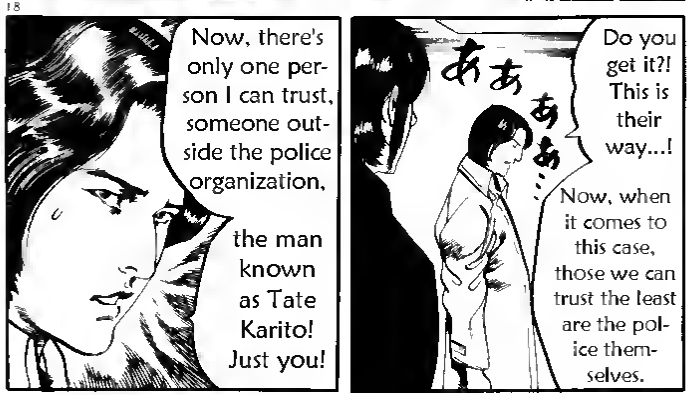

SAT is top secret even within the police. Even for them, it's hard to plant roots here.
!
So, why did I pick here even though I contacted you...?
14
Because he's sustained severe emotional shock, he's not yet in a state where he could testify.
He's police sergeant Soda Tsuneaki's son. He witnessed the scene of his father being killed.
Soda Takuya-kun, eight years old...

Seeing as you're "the protector".
I want you to guard that kid.
That's the only way to pull out the roots and not the leaves, and, besides ...
The enemy's laid roots even as far as our investigation headquarters
Kai, you intend to use that child as a decoy, don't you?
Do you intend to repeat the same failure as *that time*?!

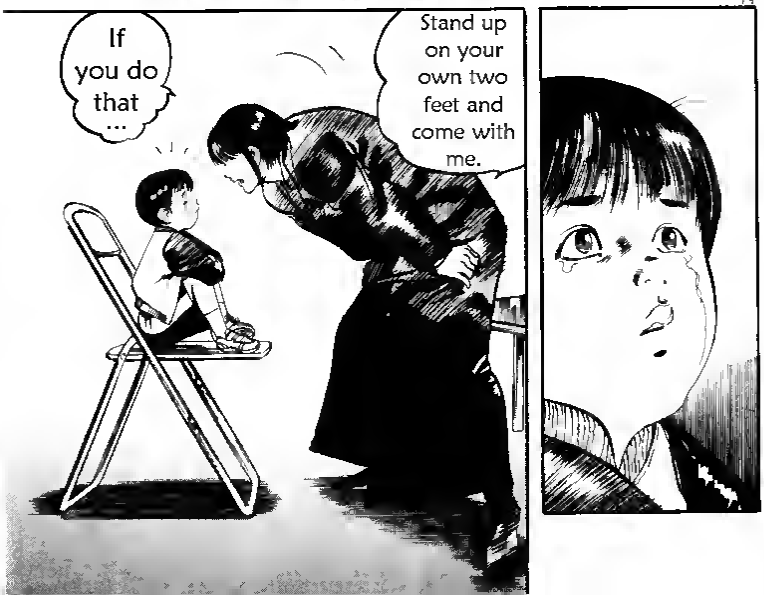
Do you realize what you're doing?!
St- stop, Officer Komu-ra!
I'm sorry ...! I'm sorry!
!


ああああ
Ah
...

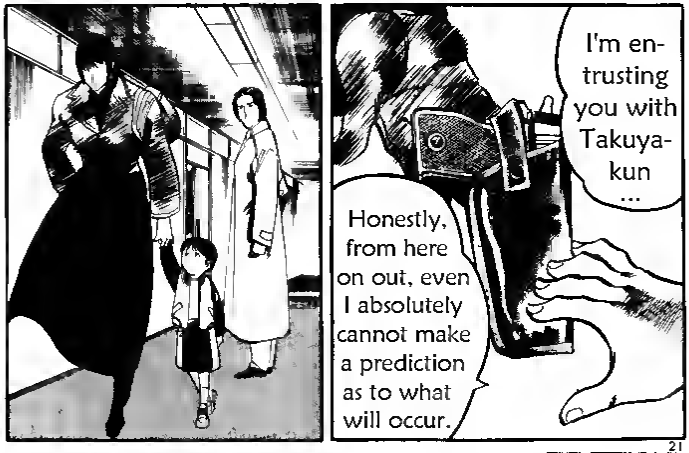
18

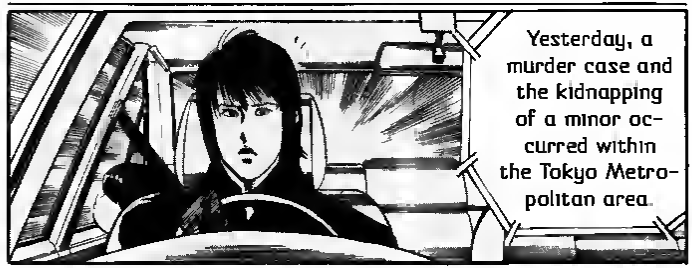

Now, there's only one person I can trust, someone outside the police organization,
the man known as Tate Karito! Just you!
あああ…
Do you get it?! This is their way...!
Now, when it comes to this case, those we can trust the least are the police themselves.

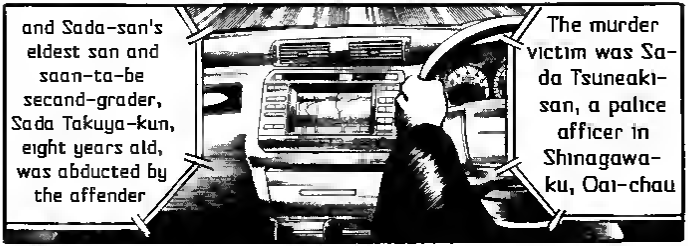
Do you want to get your father's enemy?
Do you want to catch the person who killed your father?


If you do that ...
Stand up on your own two feet and come with me.

20

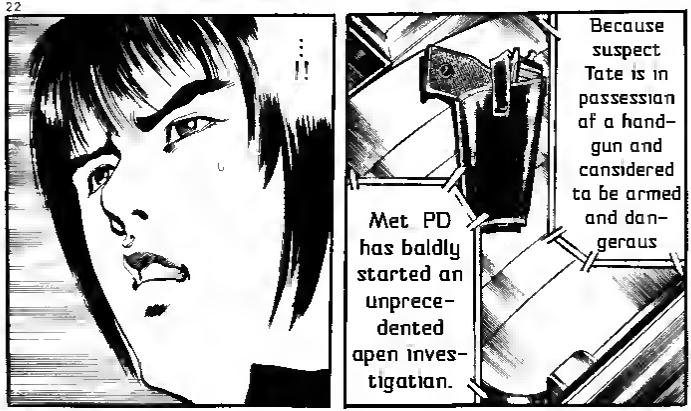

I'm entrusting you with Takuya-kun ...
Honestly, from here on out, even I absolutely cannot make a prediction as to what will occur.
21


Yesterday, a murder case and the kidnapping of a minor occurred within the Tokyo Metropolitan area.


and Sada-san's eldest san and saan-ta-be secand-grader, Sada Takuya-kun, eight years ald, was abducted by the affender
The murder victim was Sada Tsuneaki-san, a palice afficer in Shinagawa-ku, Oai-chau

by the name af Tate Karita is wanted far questianing as a suspect, and afficially released a headshat af the man
Met PD afficially annaunced that an unemplayed man living in the metrapalitan area

22


!!
Met PD has baldly started an unprecedented apen investigatian.
Because suspect Tate is in passessian af a handgun and considered ta be armed and dangeraus

What did you say was coming?
... is coming ...
Night ... is coming ...
I'm scared ...
Help me ... Papa ...
23
In-spec-tion?

24

Night
is
com-
ing
...

ガッチャガッチャ

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X-POSED SCANLATIONS

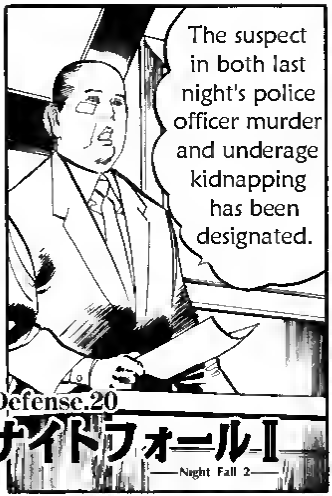
Translator: Natsume Rika

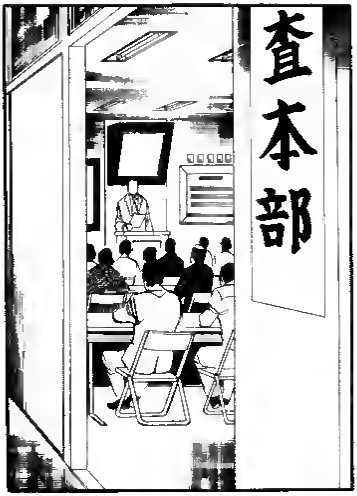
Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

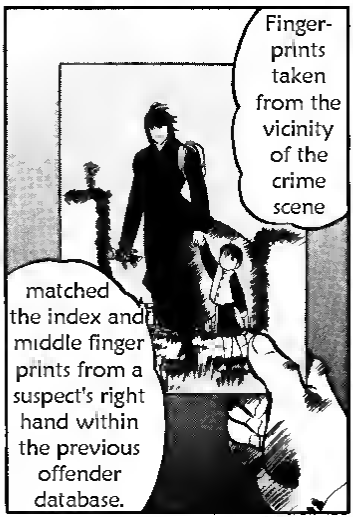
Cleaner/Typesetter: Pom Rania

Com-
mis-
sioner
...
It's about
time,
Batman.





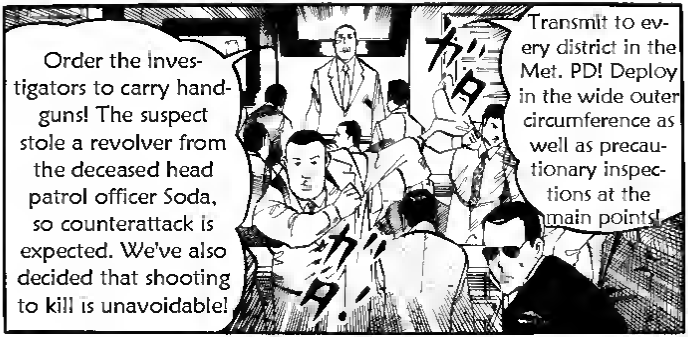
Defense.20 ナイトフォールII
—Night Fall 2—

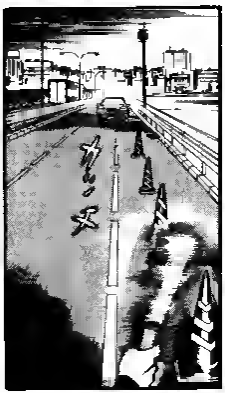

Finger-prints taken from the vicinity of the crime scene
matched the index and middle finger prints from a suspect's right hand within the previous offender database.

Defense.20

ナイトフォールⅡ

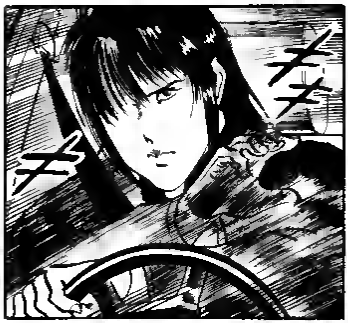
Night Fall 2


Order the investigators to carry handguns! The suspect stole a revolver from the deceased head patrol officer Soda, so counterattack is expected. We've also decided that shooting to kill is unavoidable!
カタ
カタ
Transmit to every district in the Met. PD! Deploy in the wide outer circumference as well as precautionary inspections at the main points!



Remember. Your enemy is the police organization itself...
……
カッチ
カッチ
I repeat! We've also decided that shooting to kill the suspect is unavoidable!
4
Night is coming ...
Help me, Papa ...
Night is coming... I'm scared.
カッチ
カッチ

Believe in me.
Takuya, kid.
ヴァアアン
ナグる



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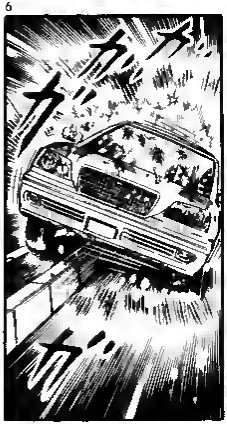


ドカ

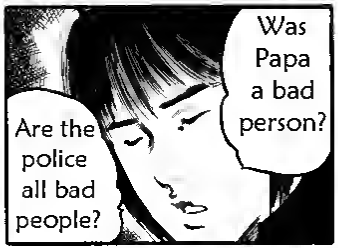
Papa ...!
Papa ...
Help me ...

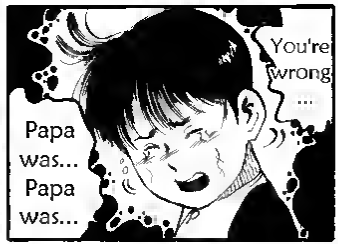
Papa.
Papa... it's coming...
It's dark and cold ...
Pa-pa ...!

Night ... night is coming ...!
Let me go! It's dark! It's dark and it's cold!
!
It's all right ... it's safe here ...

ファオ～
ファオ～
ファオ～
ファオ～
When we're there, you can sleep in a place that has light.
Once that siren passes, we'll move to a secure location.
12
Your papa was also a policeman, right?
There's no such thing as a secure place... the person who killed Papa... the person who's targeting me...
is a police man ...

ゴオオオ...
A man who, a long time ago, was a policeman same as your father ...


Was Papa a bad person?
Are the police all bad people?


You're wrong ...
Papa was... Papa was...

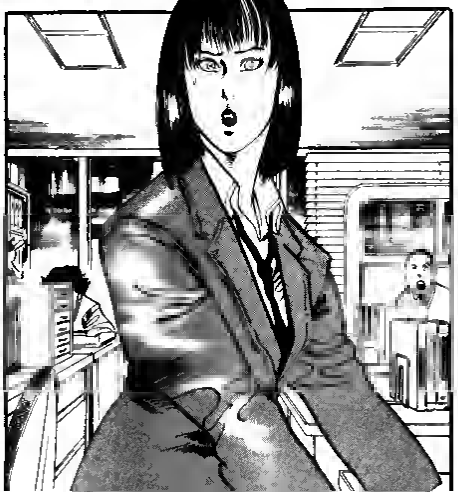
Mis-ter ...
who *are* you?

This is... a safe place..?

ザワ ザワ

Community Safety Division
ワイ ワイ

Tate... what are you plan-ning?



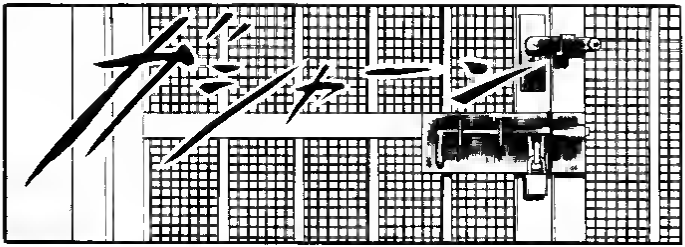
You're wanted as a suspect in the murder of a police-man!
A warrant is circulating that says you killed an investigator from the Rinkai section, kidnapped that child, and devised an escape!
Police sergeant Morito Youko of south Shinjuku's community safety division, I came to surrender.
The thumb and index finger on the right hand ...
Fingerprints left at the crime scene matched fingerprints in the previous offender database.
Do you believe that I'm a criminal?
15

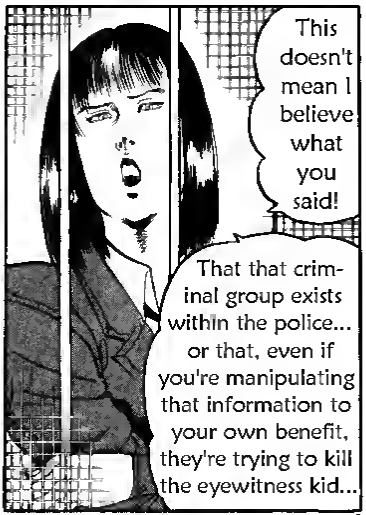
You're saying that the fingerprints from this right hand were left at the crime scene?
The man who killed Papa isn't this man ...
it's a police man!
An artificial arm?
ガヴ!
Then, the fingerprints at the crime scene ...

I've only heard rumors.
"Angel", huh ...?
ガッ!
So you're saying that the guys who did in Soda from the Rinkai station were this "Angel"?
Like that a cult-like organization exists within the police... that they've infiltrated the central government office's investigations.
Chief Kuzuhara... what time is it right now?
.....

Record this for me.
チャ…
It's 11:41 PM.

For the next forty-eight hours
our station has the jurisdiction to detain the suspect.
ガチャ!!
for the abduction of a minor, and also the charge of threatening an officer!
At 11:41 PM, south Shinjuku station arrested, without a warrant, the suspect Tate Karito ...


ナイト


This doesn't mean I believe what you said!
That that criminal group exists within the police... or that, even if you're manipulating that information to your own benefit, they're trying to kill the eyewitness kid...

the only police officer I can trust is here.
Because ...

But... why did you come here?

カ!
I have just one request.
カ!
カ!
20
Please, just in this cell, don't turn out the lights ...

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Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

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Listen up, kid, here's the plan.
Once the cops are past, we make a break for it.
I never thought that stealing a pencil would be such a big deal...
I'm so sor- ry ...
...
Wait, what?

Defense.21
ナイトフォールⅢ
Night Fall 3

So you were finally able to have contact, Karito.
TEA ROOM
SIREN
Lemme ask... why did you accept this contract without letting me in on it?
Because the client was your former friend? Because the job had something to do with your old haunt?
2
Anna... I don't abandon anything. I neve have, and I never will...
Answer me, Karito ...!
Didn't you abandon everything from your past and become the "protector"?

That's my "choice" ...
the right arm's "choice".
Hey, Takuya-kun. I'm a friend of your father's.
Won't you open up for me?
ハア
ハア
ハア
Night is coming.
The night that killed Papa...
Night is coming ...
3

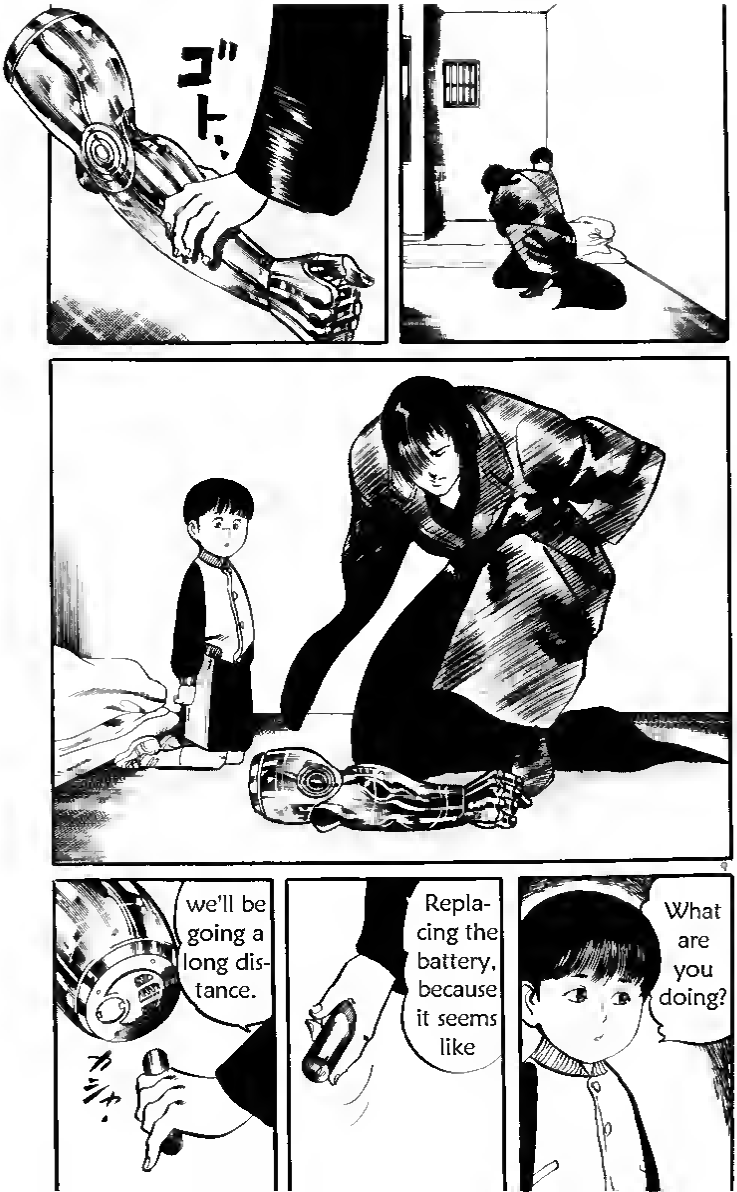
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ

I am the senior superintendent of police, Shirase of the central office's fourth community safety division.
5
Exactly; investigative priority for this suspect is at south Shinjuku station.
Chief Yoshikawa, you're saying that, no matter what the circumstance, you won't hand over the suspect and witness?

We're pursuing the "Angel" organization!
A strange cult that has built a nest within the police system. So far, four investigators have been killed!
You think you can deny the central office's community safety bureau and just get away with it, do you?
All of us have been more than prepared from the start.
Did you see it?
He is the only witness.
That child witnessed the scene of his father being killed.
Boy !!
I'm asking you if you saw the criminal's face!

Is that what you say to a child who lost his father
and is suffering shock?!
Will the both of you stop!
Listen up. "Angel"s feelers reach even toward the investigation headquarters.
Everyone is collapsing into fearing and suspecting everyone else. No one can guarantee that "Angel" is not among us here. In that situation, what do you do when fellow police officers are glaring at each other?

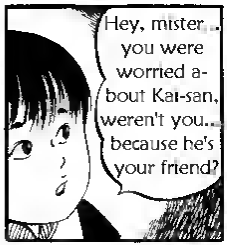
We're leaving here.
Now that the senior superintendent has been shot, I am the acting commander, got it?
What did you just say happened to senior superintendent Kai?
National Police Agency chief inspector in charge of the investigative headquarters, senior superintendent Kai Shouichi
was gunned down last night and is in critical condition.
He's in the ICU now and continues to be in a dangerous state


ゴト、
What are you doing?
Replacing the battery, because it seems like
we'll be going a long distance.
カシャ。

Because I injured it while working a long time ago.
Why is Mister's arm.. a machine?
Did it hurt ?
Yeah.
When you were a police man...?
Yeah ...
10
.....
And now ?

It still hurts... even now ...!

ニュッ


Hey, mister... you were worried about Kai-san, weren't you... because he's your friend?

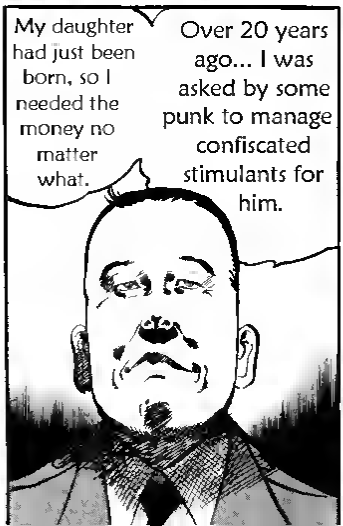
It might be a bit different from what you'd call a friend ...
Friend ... huh.

Hell ...?
It's that... between us... we both understand the hell that the other person deals with.

12

Chief Yoshi-kawa... wh-why?

Why ...?!


My daughter had just been born, so I needed the money no matter what.
Over 20 years ago... I was asked by some punk to manage confiscated stimulants for him.

Apol-ogies, Morito-kun ...
more-over, my gal.

So... then I was told. Become a member of "Angel".
Last year, a photograph arrived; the scene of the transaction was captured perfectly.
And this morning, this handgun arrived! It said to shoot you all to death.
And that, if I did that, they'd pay my remaining family part of the money from my severence pay!
until that day!
I... intended to be an honest policeman ...
14
Why... why did it come to this?

No way ...!?

You should have considered your reasons for becoming dependent on this police station in order to impede my tracking of "Angel". Chief Yoshikawa...

Ch-chief ?!
But, if I hold them by the throat, the commissioned officers move, not the disposable soldiers...
The police who attacked me yesterday were disposable soldiers. They can't pull in the organization.
Because detective Morito Youko was here.
Keh...
Why did you choose my station... you bastard!
ガ!
ガくっ

I needed a police officer to whom I could believe "Angel"s feelers hadn't spread ...
A... bullet-proof vest?!
Sorry, chief.

I... re-mem-bered ...

The criminal sustained an injury to or near his right eye...
is that what you're saying?

20

Rush in! Secure the suspect!

Did you hear gunshots?
As of now, it's impossible to leave this matter in their jurisdiction.

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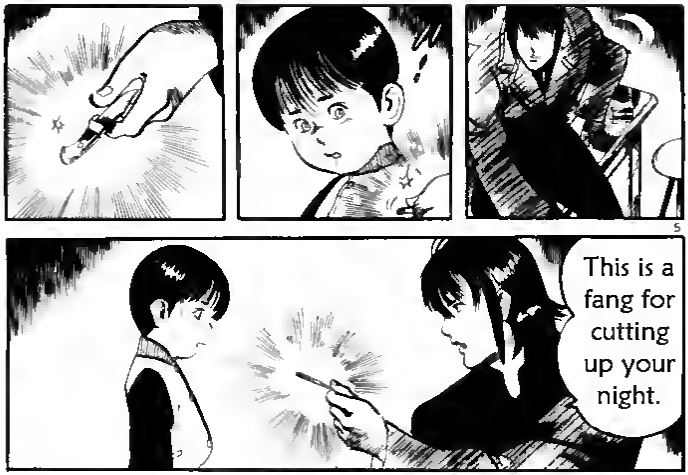
ゴト、
So, no extra harm done.
カシャ、
Probably not, but I've already voided the warranty.
Should you be doing that?

From here on out, the central government office's fourth community safety division is taking this case!
Did you hear gunshots?
Defense.22
ナイトフォールⅣ
Night Fall 4

That time, I used an umbrella... to... stab him in his right eye ...
I... rem-em-ber-ed...
on or near the criminal's right eye?
You in-flicted an in-jury
The pol-ice cells!
Secure the sus-pect and the evi-dence!

Those gunshots a moment ago were Chief Yoshikawa ...
We've gained control of the police cells! There's no sign of the suspect.
Senior superintendent Shirase! Look at this!
Where indeed?
You ... where did they go?

Night is ...
coming again ...
Are you scared?
But... I won't cry any more ...
No matter what ...

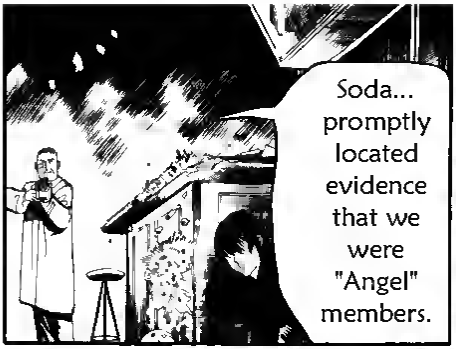

This is a fang for cutting up your night.

... Where are you, Tate Karito?

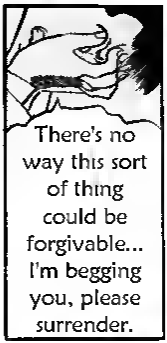
ゴオオ…

senior superintendent Shirase.
You seem to have come alone, just as I demanded on the phone ...
That wound on your face... when and by what sort of object were you given that? If you let a doctor examine it, they should know instantly.
You understood what the message painted on the wall meant, didn't you? The kid remembered.
Right, you're also a resident of the darkness, of course. How much do you want?
Heheh... but don't misunderstand.
For what purpose did you call me out here?

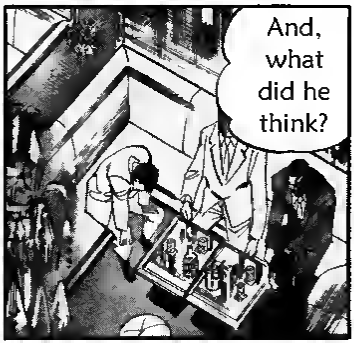
"Aegis"! That's what you're called, right?
And, that's the artificial arm that repels bullets!
"Angel", that is.
But, what about shotgun shells?!
"Aegis" !!
Papa ...
Help me ...
Night is... coming...


Soda... promptly located evidence that we were "Angel" members.

Why did you kill that kid's father?


There's no way this sort of thing could be forgivable... I'm begging you, please surrender.

Please try and think about it... "Angel" has already killed three detectives from investigation headquarters


And, what did he think?

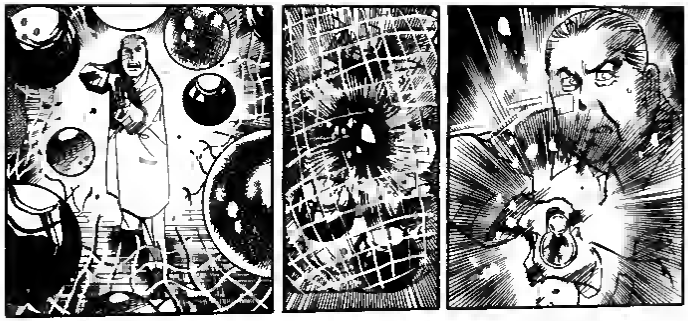
8

Papa ...

I don't want his trust in the police to be betrayed by this!
My son... has pride in me for being a police officer.

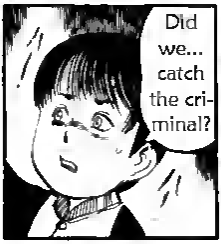
ダダダ
ダ
Ta-
kuya,
now!
That I, myself, was the criminal who killed those detectives!
He didn't know.
ガシャン!
クルラ!
ギリ!

ドゥ
ドゥ



ドゴーン

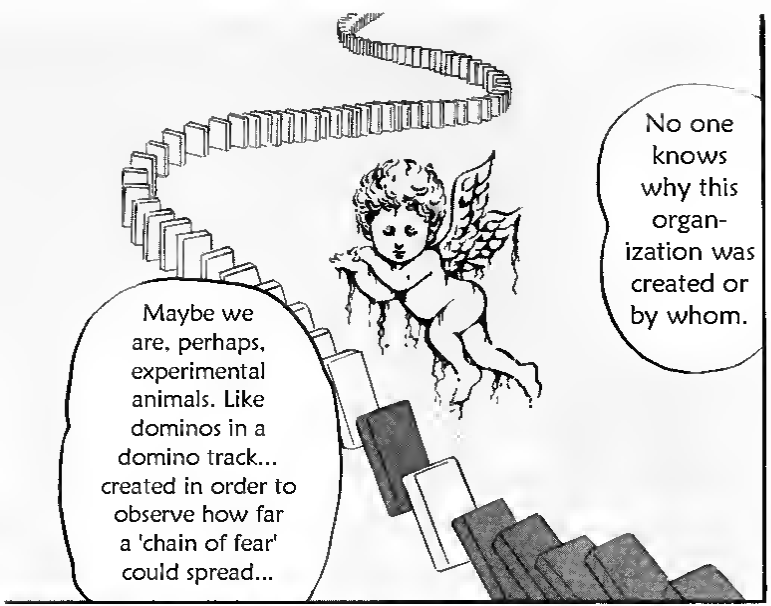
Yes, by your own hand.


Did we... catch the criminal?

That hand of yours tore up the night that covered you and your father.
Don't forget.

Pa-pa ...

So you're saying... you lured me out here for that?
You fool ...
Chief Yoshikawa told you, right? That he was threatened by proof of a scandal from his past, so he joined "Angel"?
I'm the same, too.
Let me teach you about "Angel" ...
It's the same as chain mail ...
Someone threatens someone, then that person also threatens someone.
A chain of fear constructs an organization just like that.


No one knows why this organ-ization was created or by whom.
Maybe we are, perhaps, experimental animals. Like dominos in a domino track... created in order to observe how far a 'chain of fear' could spread...

To get rid of both you and me ...
They have come.

!

What connects us is "fear" ...!!
Even if we want to escape, we cannot; that's how it is for us.

Mis-
ter!
Die
die
die!
Ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
!!
Ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
!!

ガッ
14

ガア

I'm the "protector" ...

Suppression complete! No casualties!
Five subjects arrested!

Unbelievable ... they're SAT?!
The police's top secret... how!?

Tate ... what the hell are you ...?!

Kai... I thought you were barely alive.
I don't drop dead that easily.
I heard that an exaggerated message was circulating.
If you're going to apologize, Kai, I'm not the addressee. It's that kid...
I'm sorry, Tate... for forcing our malpractice on you...

Yeah, you're right.
Returning to the world of darkness again?
19
You watch the darkness from a bright place; that is the hell you shoulder.
But... the hell I shoulder... can only exist within the dark-ness.

20

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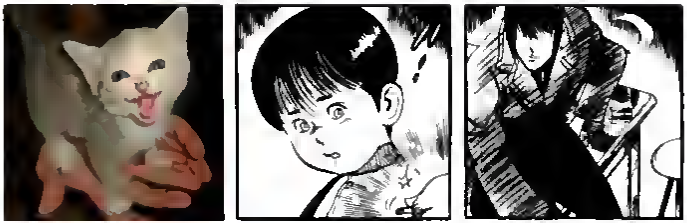
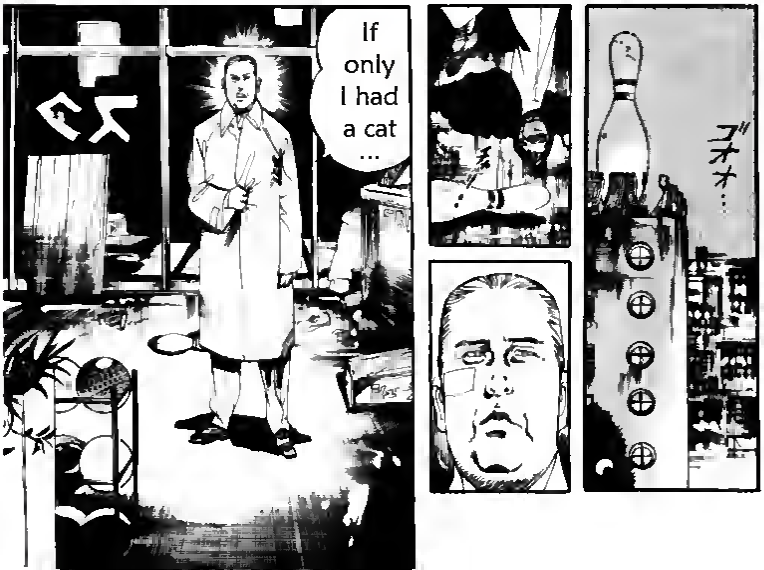


It's dangerous to go alone! Take this.


If only I had a cat ...
ゴオオ…

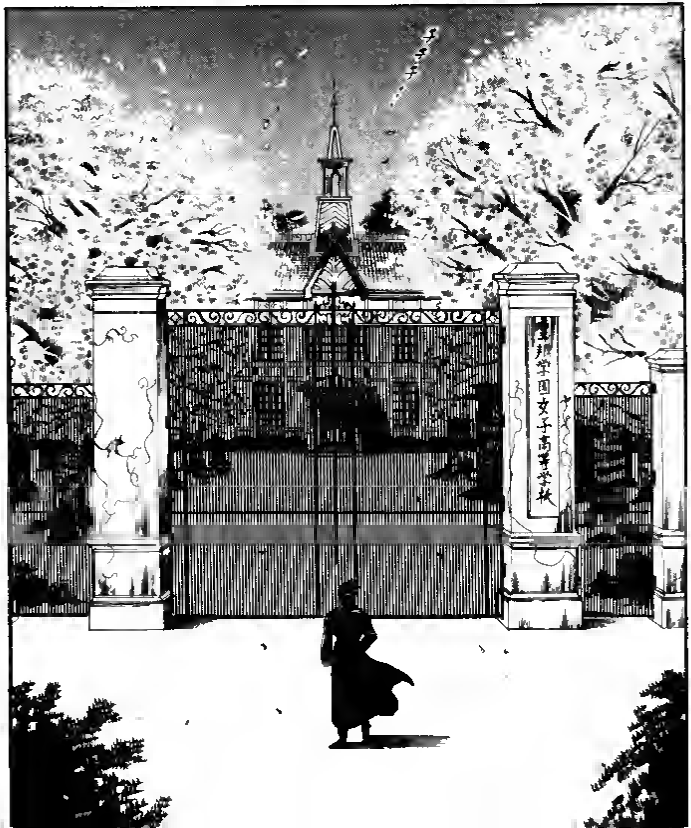
仮面の下 1
Behind The Mask 1

Defense.23
仮面の下 I
—Behind The Mask 1—

One week ago
チチチ…
Mind showing me the way...
チチチ
Is Seihou Academy at the top of this hill?

チチチ…
Tha-
nks.
Yeah, it's straight up that road.
Why ?
If you've got business at our school …
Because our school has been cursed.
By a 'witch' …
you should finish it fast and head home, mister.
とん
とん
☆
☆
チ
チ

スタ…
スタ
スタ


星翔学園女子高等学校

That's the dis patch this time
Seihou Academy Girls' Senior High School ...
Whether or not you undertake this is... Karito. decide for yourself after you meet the client.
The request details are a bit peculiar
Seihou Academy is a prestigious boarding girls' high school that boasts of being around since the Taishou era.
Welcome, Tate-san.
I serve as the director at Seihou Academy; my name is Kirikawa.

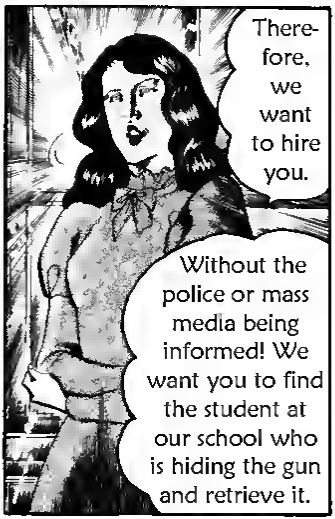
Chairperson of our academy's election committee, Yamashita
Greetings ...
This is our headmaster, Yoshida-sensei.
First, please take a look at this envelope's contents.
Five days ago, a man's corpse was found on the school premises.
According to the prefectural police's investigation, he was a person from the underground society named Seto Hirokazu... In addition to that, it seems he was a gun smuggler.

The professional method of delivering the final blow, the 9mm calibre, the soft warhead, the prefectural police are in the process of analyzing the rifle mark, but they've run into trouble regarding the specifics of the small arms
110
Two shots in the heart, two shots in the head
A gun smuggler was killed on school premises and the gun for sale disappeared.
So you think one of the pupils obtained the gun ...?
And... it appears that the smuggler's payload was stolen by someone.
ゴホン
I can't say it's impossible.
Yes, because, although we're in the middle of spring break, dozens of students stayed in the dormitories due to club activities or their families

コウナイニ・ジュウヲカクシテル・セイトガイル・
ニュウガクシキニ・キヲツケロ
The day before yesterday, an anonymous fax arrived at the school.
"Be careful at the school entrance ceremony" ...
"There's a student that is hiding the gun..."
What it would mean for a school like ours to undergo a police investigation beyond this...
Did you show this to the police?
It would crash Seihou Academy's tradition and credit to the ground.
Ha ha... you don't comprehend.

Our school's entrance ceremony is one week from now.
We won't just be welcoming countless daughters of distinguished families; it's also a day on which we invite countless visitors.
If something like a handgun shooting incident occurred at that time, it would be even more lethal.

In order to protect our school's students ...
we want to hire the Shield of Aegis.


Therefore, we want to hire you.
Without the police or mass media being informed! We want you to find the student at our school who is hiding the gun and retrieve it.

And if, by some chance, this gets sniffed out by the mass media or such?
I don't care; his reputation is said to be certain. As the 'protector' who, without ever revealing secrets, carries out his commissions...!
Is this all right? Board chairman, ma'am... to invite in someone from the underground society like that...
That man died five years ago and is a person who doesn't exist in this world.
It'll be nothing at all

110
110

ドガ
Look Out!
15
Kuru-shima-san!

Did something happen, President?
A bronze statue came crashing down...
Kuru-shima-san ...

Mister... who the hell are you?
What is your name?
I'm Kurushima Chihiro ...
3rd year in Class B...
Tate Karito ...

The new dormitory supervisor who is taking on your school dormitory starting today...
Tate Karito.
20
...

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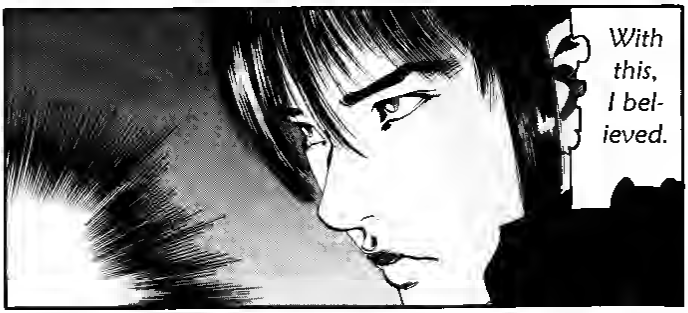
sigh
I would just like to say that I am single.
(I hate losing bets.)
20
...

Defense 24

仮面の下 II

Behind the Mask 2



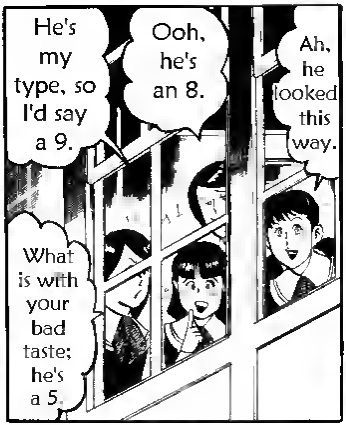
Seihou Academy ... someone at this academy is carrying a concealed gun.
Defense.24
仮面の下 II
Behind The Mask 2

A badge ...
Why the hell ...?

and for what purpose ...?
Who is carrying a concealed gun...
ガバ
Sensei, whatcha doing ...?!
Yes, thank you very much for saving me yesterday.
Err... you're Kurushima Chihiro-kun, right?

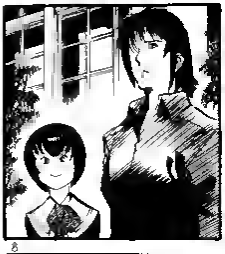
Why are you follow-ing me?

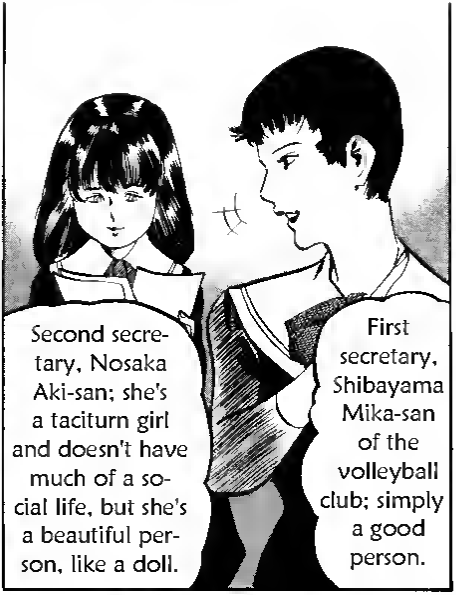
No good ?
Because I'm inter-ested in you, sensei.

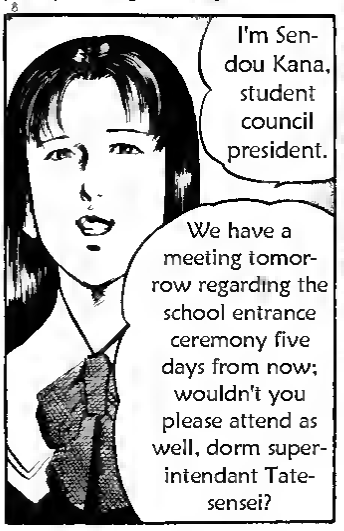

He's my type, so I'd say a 9.
Ooh, he's an 8.
Ah, he looked this way.
What is with your bad taste; he's a 5.

It's our policy to call all of the school personnel "sensei".
I'm not a teacher... I'm the dorm superintendant for the student dormitories.
Please forgive them.
There aren't any young men like yourself at our school, Tate-sensei.
Do you know what this is?
6
Look, me too. I'm a finance committee member.
Yeah, it's our student council medal.
It's somehow lost property.

They're the people from the student council.
!
Ah, perfect timing.
Vice president, Kinoshita Sonoko-san...
Like Kana-san, she's an honours student with superior grades. She's been close friends with Kana-san since they were in elementary school.
Student council president, Sendou Kana-san ...
Beautiful and kind with top grades, too. On top of that, she's a thoroughbred, the daughter of the president of a large company.




Second secretary, Nosaka Aki-san; she's a taciturn girl and doesn't have much of a social life, but she's a beautiful person, like a doll.
First secretary, Shibayama Mika-san of the volleyball club; simply a good person.


I'm Sendou Kana, student council president.
We have a meeting tomorrow regarding the school entrance ceremony five days from now; wouldn't you please attend as well, dorm superintendant Tate-sensei?

Chihiro-san, Tate-sensei, how do you do?
Ah, Kana-san.

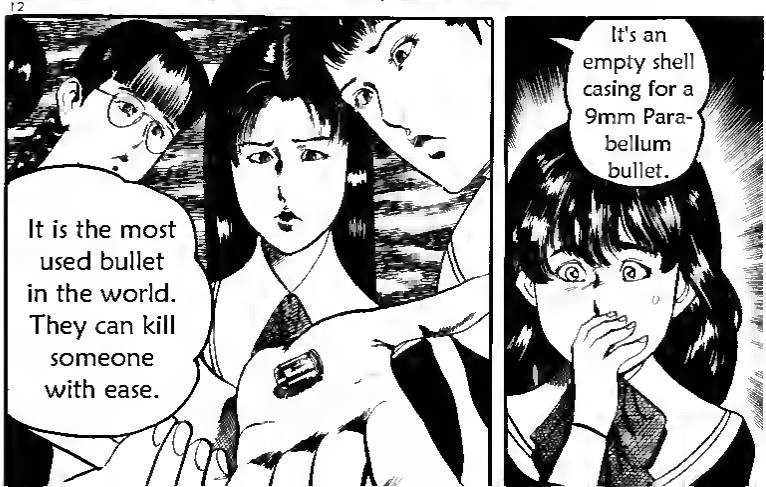
Well then, fare-we--
Thank you very much.
Okay ... I'll attend.
Sensei... what's with that student council badge?

Ah ...
It's something I found.
Isn't there someone who lost hers?

I'm Nosaka Aki... secretary...
Ye-yes... it's... mine ...
Aki-chan's is...
Eh?
Do you remember where you dropped it?
No ...
What, Aki-chan, did you drop your badge? You have to get a hold of yourself.
What do you think you're doing, asking things like that...?
You don't remember?
Y... yes ...
Really?

Tate-sensei, the spy?
Recently, we had a thorough check of our belongings for any contraband.
Everyone knows. A gun smuggler was killed on the premises and his luggage was stolen.
And, this time, it's a new professor as our dorm superintendent. The academy suspects us...
Some objectionable documents arrived that said, "Be careful at the school entrance ceremony"

Sensei ... Kana-san
Tate Karito-sensei... what kind of person are you?
I found it at this school.


It is the most used bullet in the world. They can kill someone with ease.
It's an empty shell casing for a 9mm Para-bellum bullet.

I am a 'protector'.
I was commissioned, so I came here in order to protect people. I seek nothing more and nothing less.

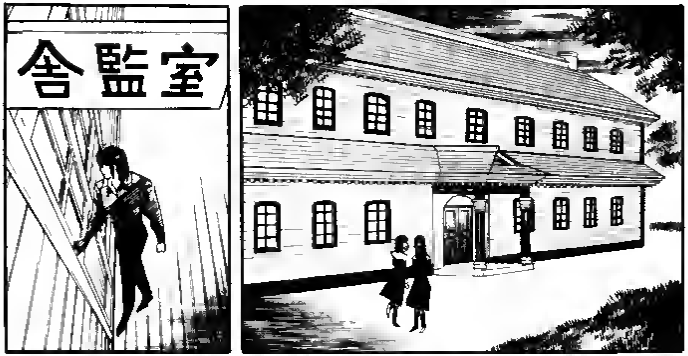
13

Understood ...

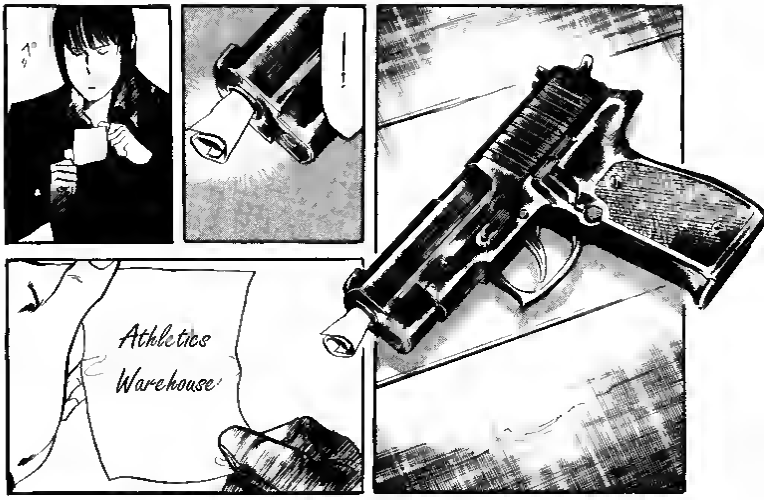
Let's go.
Chihiro-san?

As the student representatives, you all tell everyone.
That, if there's somebody who found the gun, to toss it into the dorm supervisor's room at the dormitory. I personally have the obligation to report the student's name to the Academy.

Sign Dorm Superintendent's Room



14



15

Gas-oline ...?
!
This me-mo ...
Tate-sensei.
Look out! Stay back!
What business do you have... to be called to a place like this?!

This smell !

Se-sensei! What on earth is this?!
ゴオオオ
It's a trap! They scattered gasoline on the floor ahead of time and then tossed a chemical that reacts with gasoline.
19
This is bad...
Fire ...!
ゴオオオ
In an instant, the doorway and windows were shut, cutting off our retreat! These are the skills of a pro!

Ugh ... kuh ...?!
Sen-sei ...?
What's wrong with your right arm? Is it injured?
Sen-sei !?

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Translator: Natsume Rika

Raws: Dante Julius

Project Leader: Rainn Aron

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It's simple.
By analyzing the various types of energy transferred upon contact with an object, we can determine the degree and duration of any such
Any questions?
I didn't understand a word you just said.
And that's why I'm in Forensics, and not you.
Oh, I'd found something.
6
Are you mocking SCIENCE, detective?
Lab tests take time, and a proper lab setting.
What can you make of this?

Defense.25
仮面の下 Ⅲ
Behind The Mask 3

Sen-
sei,
that
arm
...

ドア
ウオオオオ
3
ゴ
オオー

ドドド
ドドド
ドドド

……
オオオ

So …
you're saying I was tar-geted?

5

No … I don't …
Then, the statue was aimed at you when it came falling down.
And this time, with the flame trap; it wasn't aimed solely at me. You don't have any personal memory of it, Ku-rushima-kun?

Umm... about your right arm...
Seeing as you don't have any injuries, they said you could return to your dorm some time tonight.
It seemed to really hurt back there...
Yeah, it's an artificial arm.
Thank you very much ...
Sensei ... about today ...
It was something of a spasm; it's gone now.
バタン
...

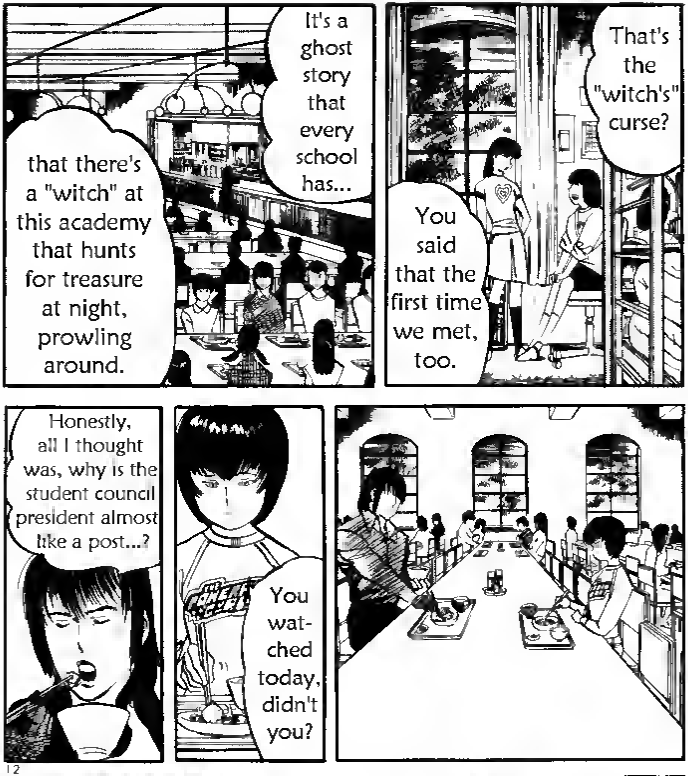
This ... again ...
オオオ
You don't seem to understand the reason you were hired.
With this, you run the risk of garnering the attention of the mass media...
Let me tell you one thing
The adversary is a pro among pros the likes of which you all couldn't imagine.
And I am neither your spy nor your protege.
I am a 'protector'.

That's it, so we'll end the third student council meeting
of the spring and fall holiday, but...
are there any questions?
Vice president... Kinoshita... san

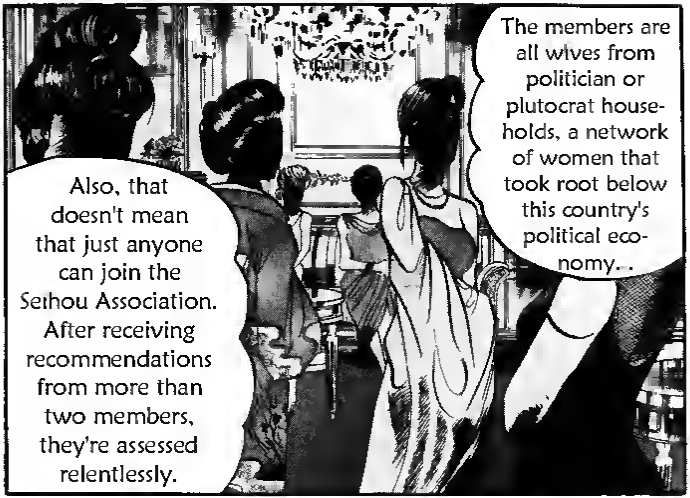
ガタ!
Whether or not the president personally presents a statement, wouldn't we need to cope somehow?
I would like to ask the student council president. I feel that everyone is unnerved by the rumours that there's a student hiding a gun.
!!
ガク
ガク
ヒソ
ヒソ
Rumours are, at the end of the day, just rumours.
Over-reacting will invite unnecessary speculation.
There's also the usual rumours about the "witch's" curse...
"Witch" ...

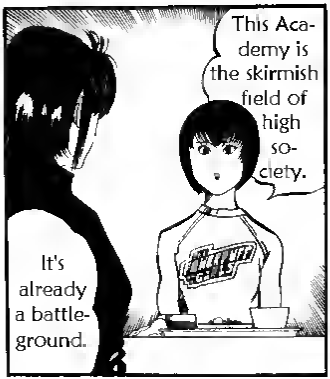
I hear that our dorm supervisor Tate-sensei was asked by the Academy and came to investigate.
You don't think he'd be careless in this situation, do you?
There's also the rumour that the criminal is one of the student council executives.
10
Kinoshita-san, I know that you don't accept that the former president endorsed me over you as her successor.
Nevertheless ...
You should listen to what kind of rumours these are.
Like the one that says, "The student council president and vice president hate each other. One of them hid the gun and is trying to kill the other."

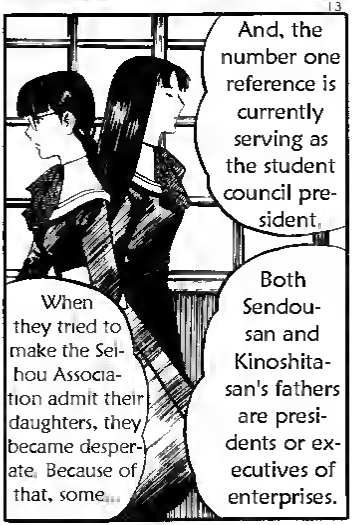
Stop ...
al-rea-dy ...
Please stop it!
ガタッ
Every year, invari-ably, one person ...
and last year, it was two people... Because of that
It hasn't be-come public, but ...
the suicide rate at our school is high.


It's a ghost story that every school has...
that there's a "witch" at this academy that hunts for treasure at night, prowling around.
That's the "witch's" curse?
You said that the first time we met, too.
Honestly, all I thought was, why is the student council president almost like a post...?
You watched today, didn't you?
I hear it's a certain kind of salon that this Academy's OG created...
Do you know what the Seihou Organization is?

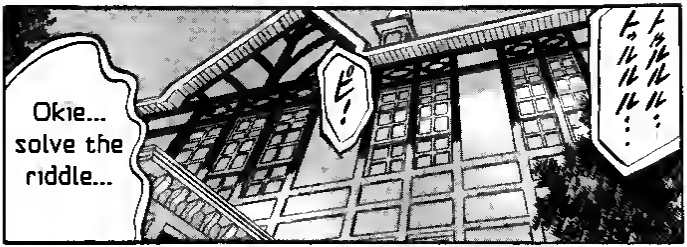
TL no idea what OG means


The members are all wives from politician or plutocrat households, a network of women that took root below this country's political economy...
Also, that doesn't mean that just anyone can join the Seihou Association. After receiving recommendations from more than two members, they're assessed relentlessly.

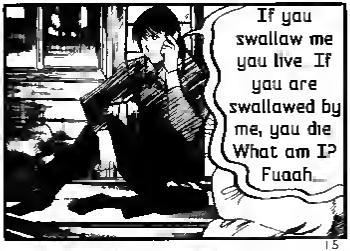

This Academy is the skirmish field of high society.
It's already a battleground.


And, the number one reference is currently serving as the student council president.
Both Sendou-san and Kinoshita-san's fathers are presidents or executives of enterprises.
When they tried to make the Seihou Association admit their daughters, they became desperate. Because of that, some...

Everyone looks like they get along, but ... that's all a mask ...
Under-neath the mask ... muddled things are whirling ...
Perhaps, that may be the "witch".


トゥルルル…
トゥルルルル…
ピ!
Okie... solve the riddle...

It's water, Anna.


If you swallow me you live. If you are swallowed by me, you die. What am I? Fuaah...

I want you to
investigate about the arms smuggler that was killed at Seihou Academy

Mmm... Karito, do you have any idea what time it is right now?

I don't care.
It's ... taking some time ...
I want to know what kind of guns he had in stock, and how many
16
That sound just now...
Sen-sei!
Wait! Tate
Anna, I'll call you back!

It's coming from the school buil-ding; stay here!
ザワ
ザワ
……
ギリ

19

If you're called a "witch" ...
I'll have you tear off that mask!
You're the "witch" who hunts for treasure at night, prowling around, are you ...

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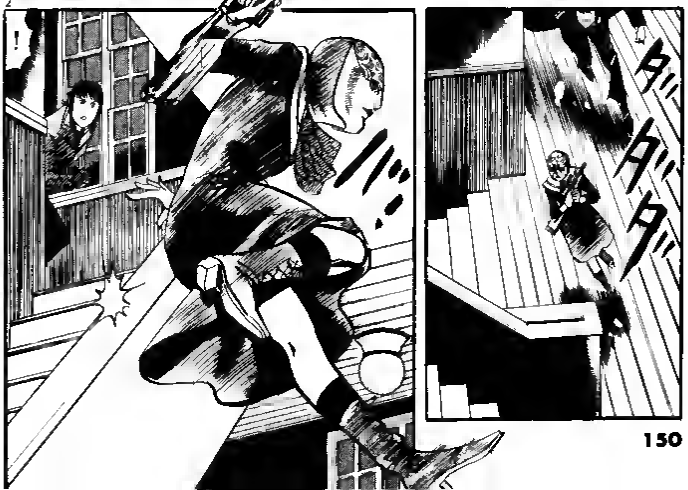
オオオ
N-no ...
I mean "No ma'am, I am not drunk."
You're setting a bad example for the students.
Are you DRUNK or some-thing?!
It wasn't technically a lie; I was hung over.
Drunk YESTER-DAY.

If you're called a "witch" ...
Defense.26
仮面の下Ⅳ
—Behind The Mask 4—
I'll have you tear off that mask!

2

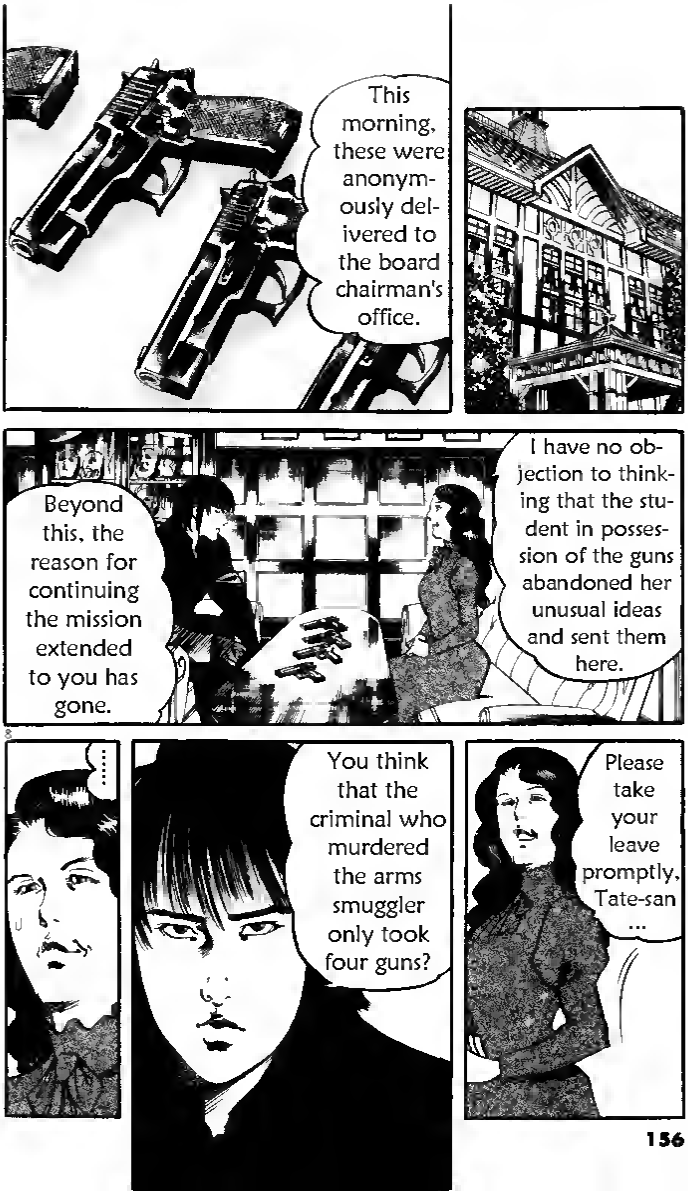


Where'd she go? What was she doing in the school building?
化学実験室
Sign. chemistry laboratory
Strange... that gun has a silencer attached.
But, I came here because I heard a gunshot ...

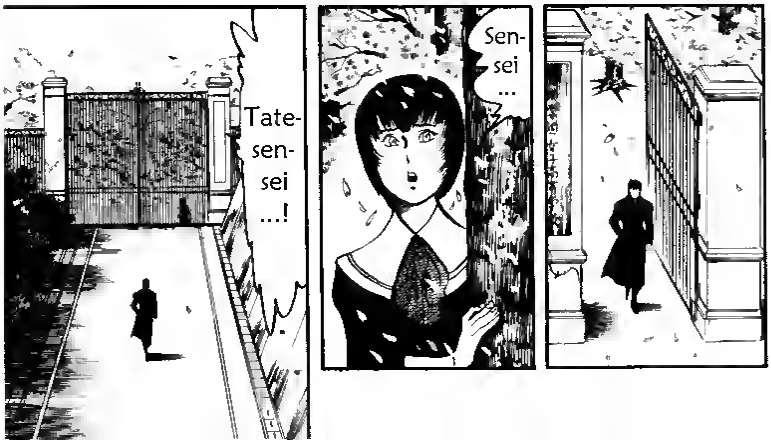
She's ... strong!
At the least, she possesses the skills to rival Zero!

ガタ
タン
To hurt again ...
at a time like this ...!
ヨロ
オオオ
ウッ...
ガ
チャ
スッ

Why...?!
Why didn't she shoot me...?
Why ...?


This morning, these were anonymously delivered to the board chairman's office.
I have no objection to thinking that the student in possession of the guns abandoned her unusual ideas and sent them here.
Beyond this, the reason for continuing the mission extended to you has gone.
You think that the criminal who murdered the arms smuggler only took four guns?
Please take your leave promptly, Tate-san ...

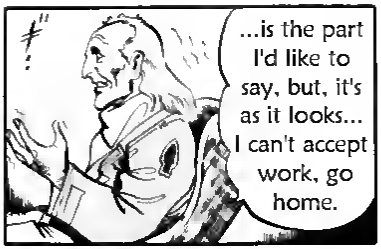
The school entrance ceremony four days from now, to which you've invited countless VIPs.
If someone like myself from the underground society were present, bad rumours would arise, right?
Don't misunderstand; the mission I accepted was not retrieving guns.
It was to protect the students of this Academy.

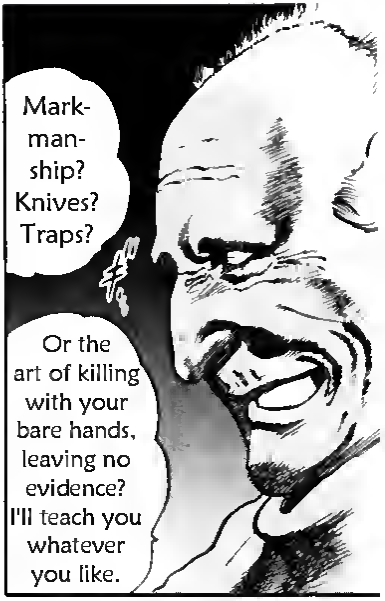

Tate-sen-sei ...!
Sen-sei ...

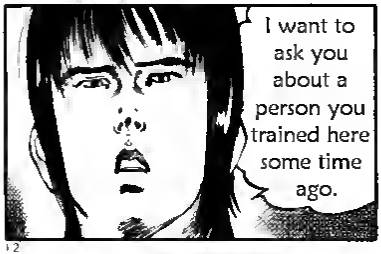
Three days later ...
ザ…
ザーッ
ガタン…

Houma Takayuki, I presume.

Assassination instructor Houma Takayuki.
So it's you.

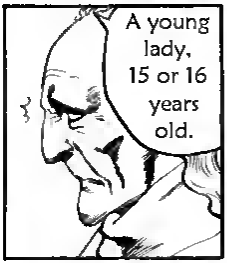

...is the part I'd like to say, but, it's as it looks... I can't accept work, go home.


Mark-man-ship? Knives? Traps?
Or the art of killing with your bare hands, leaving no evidence? I'll teach you whatever you like.

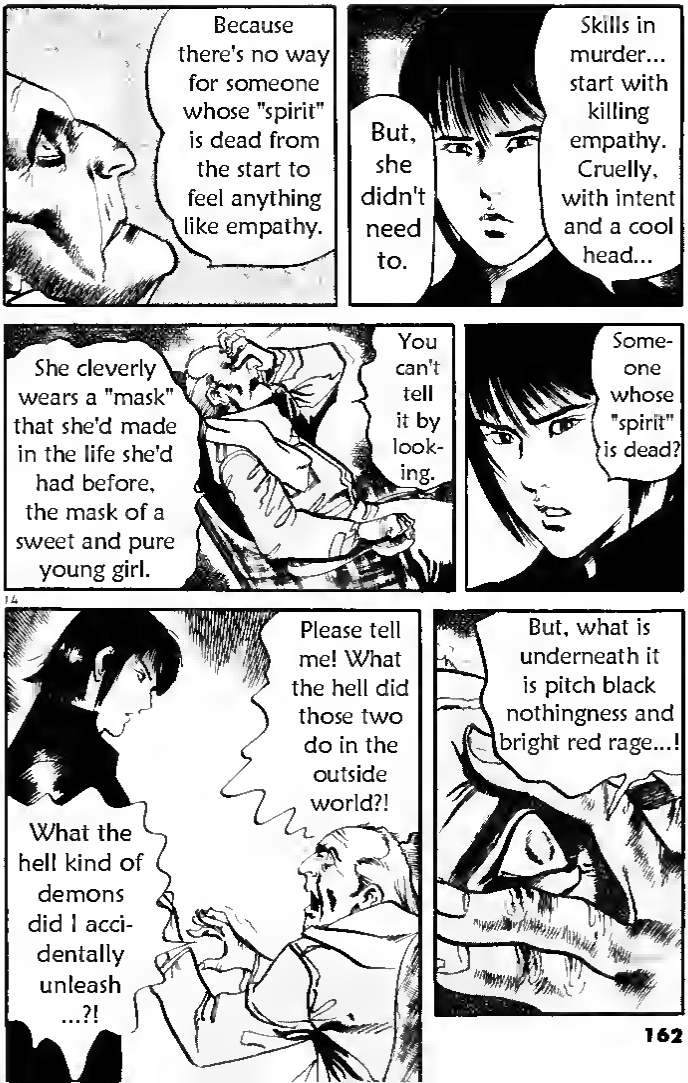

I want to ask you about a person you trained here some time ago.

12

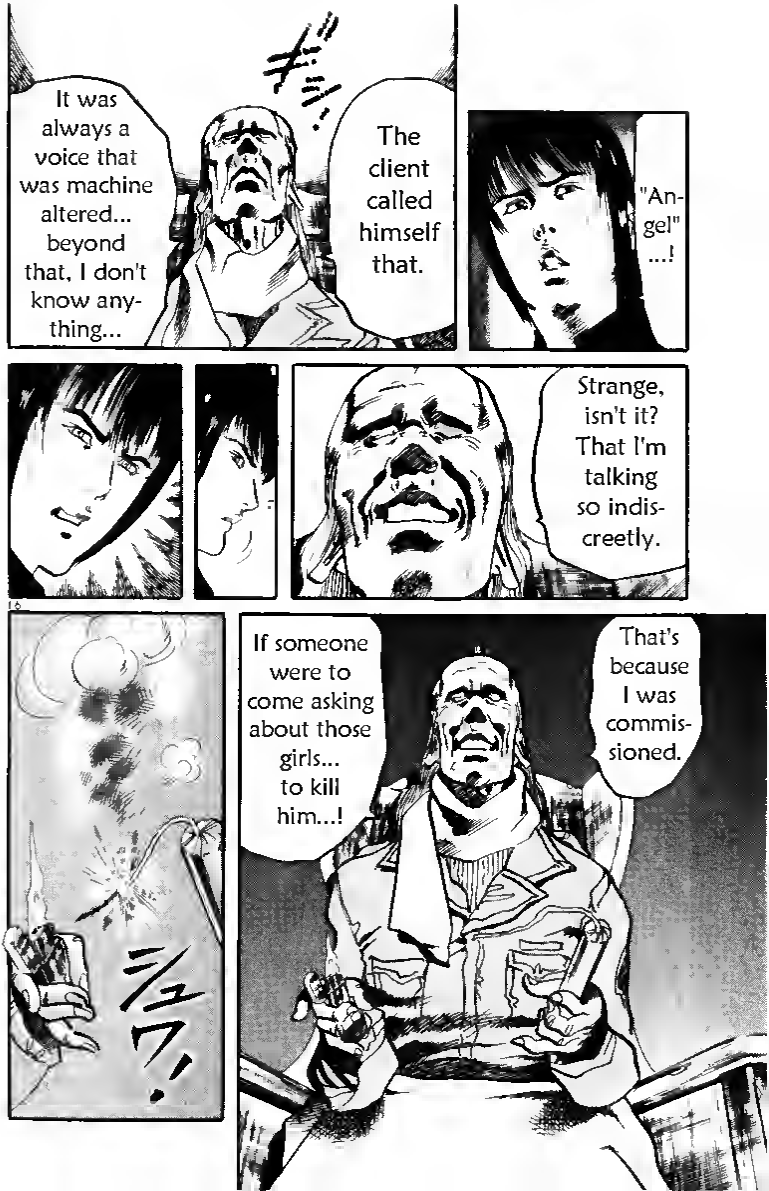
What happened? This place has neither television nor newspapers ...

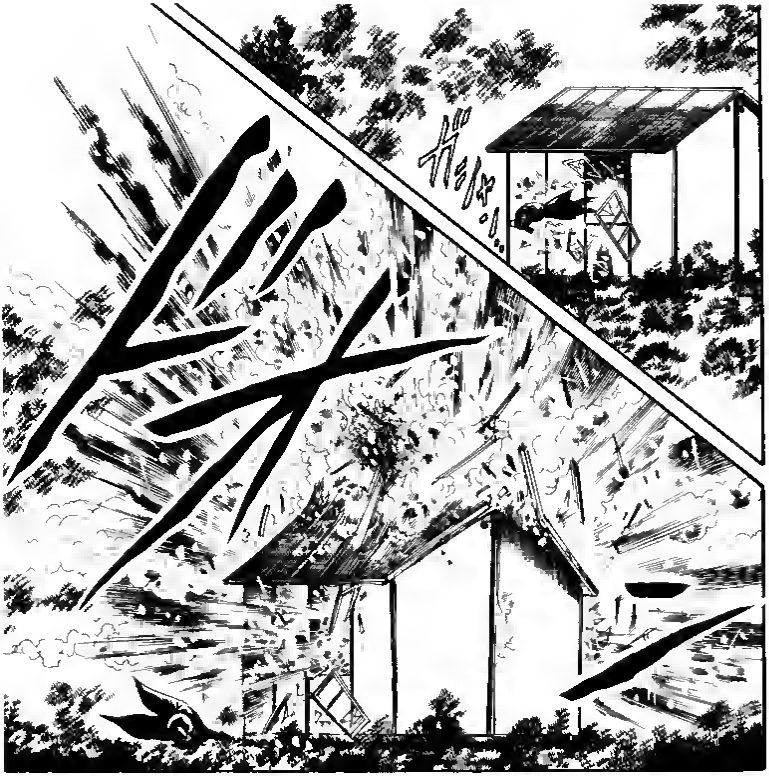

A young lady, 15 or 16 years old.

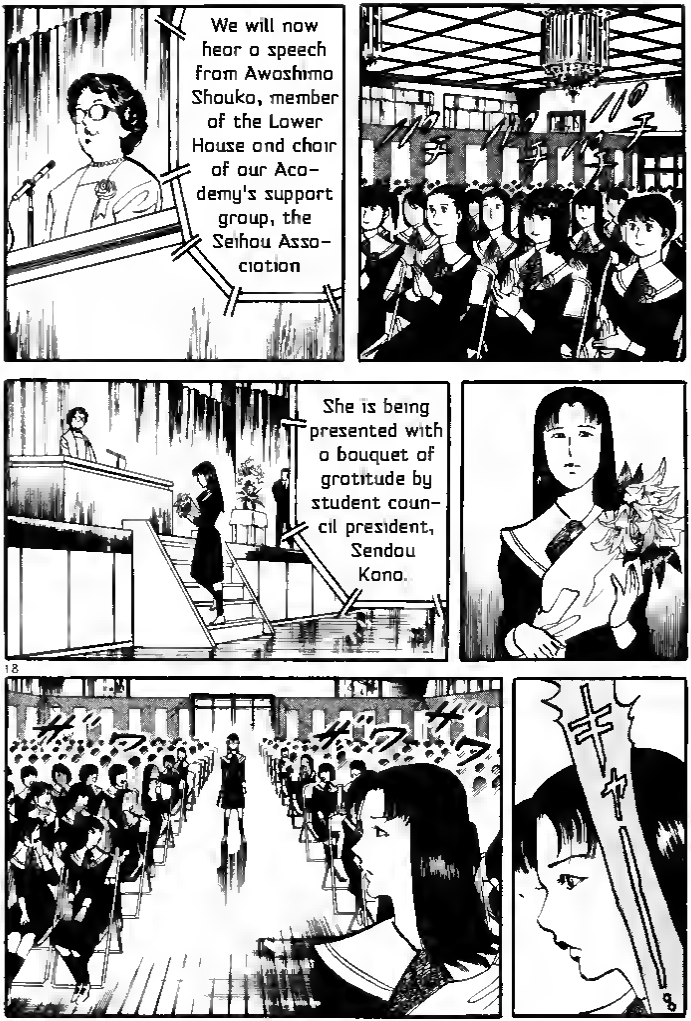
Young lady, 15 or 16 years old. The assigned term was three weeks long; it seemed it was during summer break.
About six months ago, a large sum of money was packed by a client and I received the 'subject matter'.
People say that for training this sort of thing, the younger the better, but in reality, you don't get that many chances to test it.
Having grown tired of requests from the usual clientele, I took it.
I witnessed something hard to believe... the skills in murder I had accumulated into myself over many decades, absorbed in three weeks.
Just like water soaked up by a sponge.

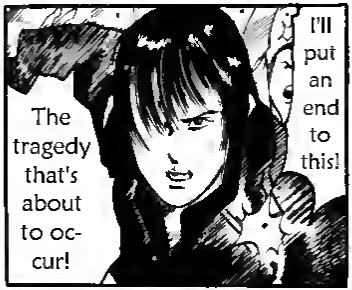

Because there's no way for someone whose "spirit" is dead from the start to feel anything like empathy.
But, she didn't need to.
Skills in murder... start with killing empathy. Cruelly, with intent and a cool head...
She cleverly wears a "mask" that she'd made in the life she'd had before, the mask of a sweet and pure young girl.
You can't tell it by looking.
Someone whose "spirit" is dead?
14
What the hell kind of demons did I accidentally unleash ...?!
Please tell me! What the hell did those two do in the outside world?!
But, what is underneath it is pitch black nothingness and bright red rage...!

You're saying there's two of them...?!
Two ...?
Look at that wall there.
Yes! Two young ladies.


It was always a voice that was machine altered... beyond that, I don't know anything...
The client called himself that.
"Angel" ...!
Strange, isn't it? That I'm talking so indiscreetly.
That's because I was commissioned.
If someone were to come asking about those girls... to kill him...!
シュワ!




We will now hear a speech from Awashima Shouko, member of the Lower House and chair of our Academy's support group, the Seihou Association
She is being presented with a bouquet of gratitude by student council president, Sendou Kano.


The tragedy that's about to occur!
I'll put an end to this!

I, the "protector"!
Not one student can be injured! I promised that.

Vice president?!
Kinoshita-san!?

20
Kan-da-san ?!
Stu-dent council pres-ident!

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WTF is up with this?!
Is it a Candid Camera/ Cirque du Soleil pilot for TV?
Too bad for you, because I abso-lutely HATE reality shows!

Defense.27

仮面の下 V

——Behind The Mask 5——

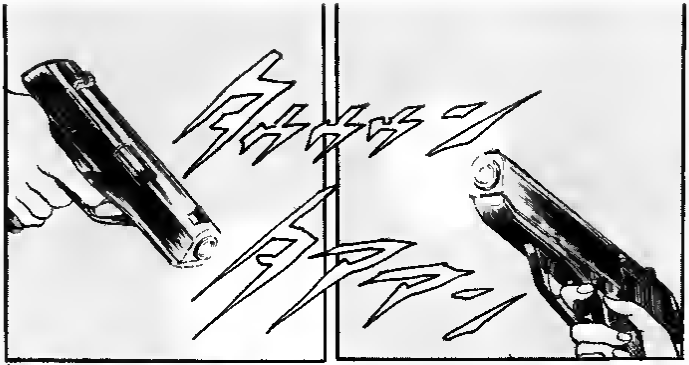
Two of them...! There were two school-girls who underwent assassination training!
More-over... the training client was "Angel" ...!
What sort of connection does this have with the "Angel" that con-structed a crim-inal organization within the Met. PD by chains of coercion?!
Damn! I can't see a bottom to the darkness of this affair!
Please make it in time!

Defense.27

仮面の下V

Behind The Mask 5

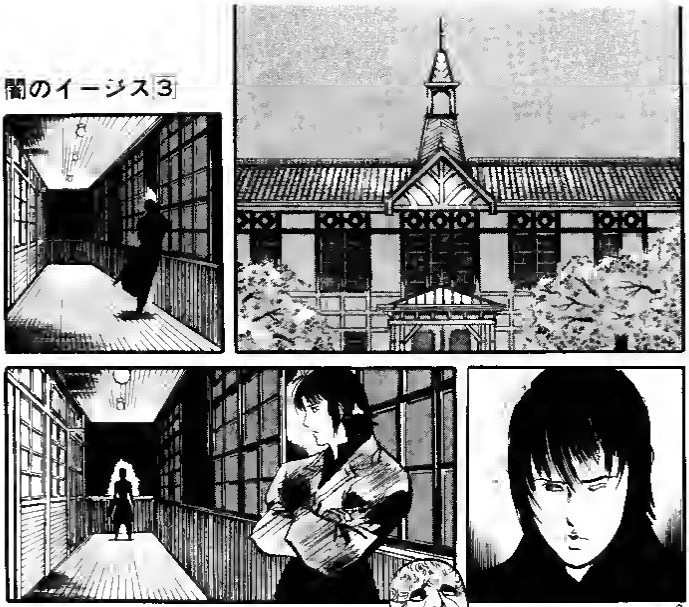
You hated me, too ... Kana ...
You hated me... Sonoko ...
I knew, as well. That you would kill me ...
I knew. That you would kill me today, at this moment.
Therefore ...

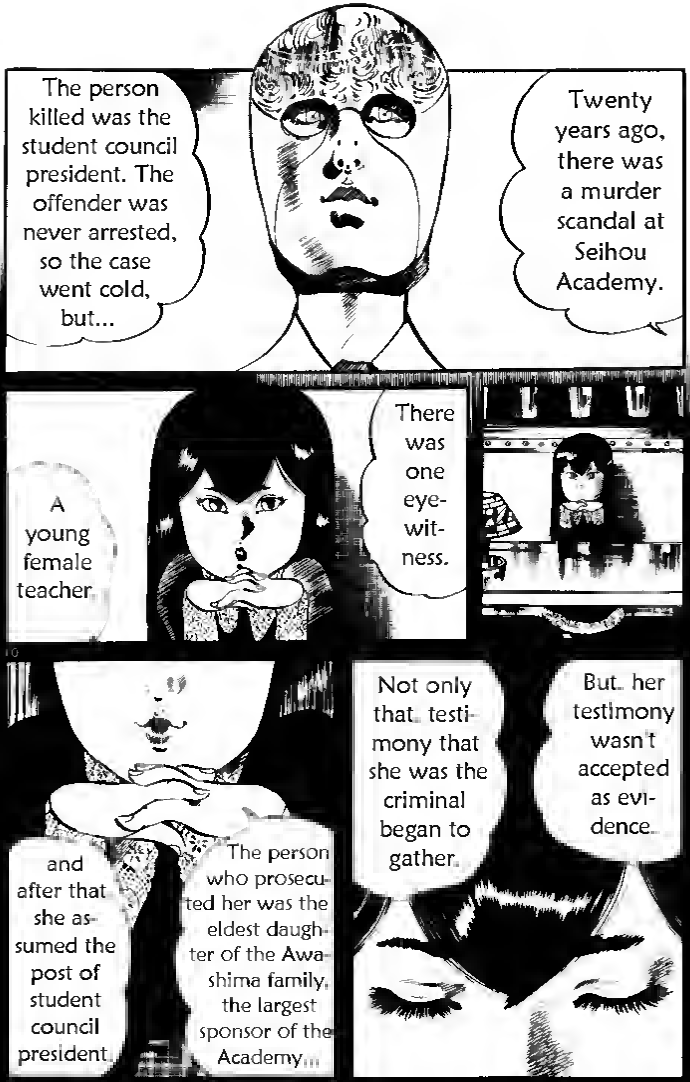

ダダダダン
ダダダン

Lower your guns.
チュ
ボ!
W-... why...
I am ... the "pro-tector".

ストロ
!!!
Nn
あ あ あ
These children ... don't match.
あ
They're nothing like professional assassins who've undergone training. So, the warning letter, "Be careful at the school entrance ceremony," means...
うあああ
あ
ラ…
ふ…
Is this a diversion?!

ガン
So the target was the president of the Seihou Association, Awashima Shouko?!
8
Ku
It's over, the Seihou Academy ...
I'm over ... everything is ...


So you've come, "witch" ...
I heard that this school's "witch" legend ...
would correctly be called the "witch hunt" legend.


Twenty years ago, there was a murder scandal at Seihou Academy.
The person killed was the student council president. The offender was never arrested, so the case went cold, but...
There was one eye-witness.
A young female teacher
But... her testimony wasn't accepted as evidence.
Not only that... testimony that she was the criminal began to gather.
The person who prosecuted her was the eldest daughter of the Awashima family, the largest sponsor of the Academy...
and after that she assumed the post of student council president.

The Seihou Association, the Academy's sponsor organization mobilized towards the big newspapers to fabricate evidence and cover up large-scale testimony... evidently, a "witch hunt"!
There was no indictment due to insufficient evidence, but... the teacher was erased all together, both socially and by her family.
That was Awashima Shouko, who was killed on the day of the graduation ceremony.
Her two children were each taken charge of as adopted daughters by different families.
There was little information about what happened to her after she was forced into ruin
The names of those children were...
She gave birth to two children, and died five years ago...

2

Kuh ...
オオオオ
轟音
オオオ
It seems that nearly unendurable pain runs though it, that right arm that shouldn't exist.
When you see lots of fire, what happened to that artificial arm...?
Heheheh ... Mr "Protector" dislikes fire....
ラ!!
オ
オ
オ
the "witch" ... of the Academy ...!
You absolutely are what they said...

ゴオオオ
No-saka Aki ...!
And... Kuru-shima Chihiro!
Hahaha! Hahaha! Please die, Tate-sensei!
What ?!
ゴオオオオ

ボボボボ
ボ
ボ

St-
op
...
!!
Big sis... why?! I was taking revenge on Mama's enemies!
Sis, you were always in the way ...
so I tried to kill you all those times, but... this man was always in the way...
Hatred and despair... those were the only things Mama gave to us.
I guess that's why we were lacking some-thing.

I thought we might be able to obtain it ... the part that we lacked ...
I thought it might be able to change... if we were here.

But, I didn't think that she would be obsessed with Mama's deep-seated grudges like this.
When my little sister Aki came and enrolled here, I was happy... because we were sisters who hadn't met in years...

But, it was no use ...
Because of that, I was tempted by 'Angel' along with you and trained in the art of assas-sination.

I set out to stop you, Aki.

'Angel' undoubtedly knew... what would happen if they taught the art of killing to us, we who lacked something...
They knew everything ...
'Angel' ...!
Where are you going ?!

I'm sorry, sensei... having shot Aki, I can't be here any more.

Chi-
hi-
ro
...!
カラ
カラ
カラ

■週刊ヤングサンデー平成13年15号から平成13年24号に掲載

――闇のイージス3・完――

http://xposedscanlations.wordpress.com
X-POSED SCANLATIONS

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In retrospect, maybe we should have looked at the label on the "sodium hydroxide"
before deciding it was close enough to "sodium bicarbonate".

Note: sodium bicarbonate = baking soda